

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

XMB-02 /106 W

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R 301500Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5456

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 1606

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, IT

SUBJ: COUNTERVAILING DUTIES: FLOAT GLASS CASE

REF: ROME 780

1. REPRESENTATIVE OF MINISTRY STATE PARTICIPATION (MSP), WHICH "SUPERVISES" ALL GOI-OWNED INDUSTRIES, CALLED AT EMBASSY AT HER REQUEST ON JANUARY 28 TO DISCUSS RECENT US TREASURY FINAL POSITIVE DETERMINATION IN ITALIAN FLOAT GLASS COUNTERVAILING DUTIES CASE. DR. MANICCIA, WHO WORKS IN DIVISION VI (EC PROBLEMS) OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, WAS REPRESENTING SIV (SOCIETA ITALIANA DI VETRO), WHICH IS OWNED 50 PERCENT BY ENI (STATE HYDRO-CARBONS AGENCY) AND 50 PERCENT BY EFIM (ONE OF SEVERAL GOI FINANCIAL HOLDING COMPANIES) AND OPERATED BY EFIM.

2. EMBOFFS ASSURED MANICCIA THAT TREASURY WOULD WELCOME ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL DATA FROM SIV OR MSP RE AMOUNT AND
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TERMS OF LOANS AND/OR GRANTS RECEIVED FROM CASSA PER IL

MEZZOGIORNO AS WELL AS DATA ON TOTAL CONSTRUCTION/EQUIPMENT COSTS OF THE PLANT. MANICCIA WAS INFORMED THAT SIV HAD COMPLETE LIST OF QUESTIONS, SUBMITTED SOME TIME AGO THROUGH GOI BY US TREASURY, FOR WHICH DATA REQUIRED. SHE WAS ASSURED THAT, IF ADDITIONAL DATA SUBMITTED, IT WOULD BE TREATED AS QTE BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL UNQTE AND WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE RE-LEASED TO COMPETITORS NOR USED OUTSIDE USG. (SHE UNAWARE UNTIL NOW THAT ONLY ITALIAN COMPANIES AMONG EC FIRMS NAMED IN PETITIONS HAD FAILED PROVIDE FINANCIAL DATA.) EMBOFFS NOTED THAT TREASURY PRESS RELEASE INDICATED CASE SUBJECT TO REVIEW UPON PRESENTATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA AND SAID THEY HAD EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE TREASURY WOULD CONSIDER SIV CASE SEPARATELY FROM VERNANTE OR ST. GOBAIN IF SIV DATA, BUT NOT OTHERS, SUBMITTED. EMBOFFS SUGGESTED PROPER CHANNEL FOR SUBMISSION ADDITIONAL DATA WOULD BE THROUGH ITALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

3. COMMENT. APPROACH FROM MSP'S EC OFFICE MAY INDICATE THAT AT LEAST SOME OTHER EC MEMBERS AND/OR COMMISSION MIGHT BE PRESSURING GOI TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL DATA AS MEANS TO (HOPEFULLY) ELIMINATE THIS CASE AS IRRITANT IN US-EC RELATIONS. SINCE VERNANTE DID NOT RECEIVE LOANS/GRANTS FROM CASSA PER IL MEZZOGIORNO AND ST. GOBAIN IS CONSTRAINED FROM EX-PORTING TO US MARKET BY PARENT COMPANY, REVIEW AND REVERSAL OF TREASURY FINDING RE SIV (ASSUMING DATA SUPPORTS REVERSAL) WOULD, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, RESOLVE CASE IN MANNER SATISFACTORY TO GOI. EC WOULD THEN HAVE LITTLE OR NO REASON TO VIEW CASE AS ATTACK ON REGIONAL AIDS POLICY. EMBASSY HAS NO ASSURANCE, HOWEVER, THAT ADDITIONAL (OR ADEQUATE, FROM USG VIEWPOINT) DATA WILL BE FORTHCOMING. VOLPE

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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